

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Ration cards are not intended to be used as documents of identity or proof of residence. State Governments/UT Adminsitrations have been repeatedly advised to discourage the use of ration cards for various verification purposes. They have been advised that other valid documents like passport, driving license, voter's identity card or identity cards issued by income tax authorities could be considered for varifying the identity of individuals by the State Governments and their agencies.

As per the reports received from the Governments of twenty States/UTs viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and UT of Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry have taken steps to stop the use of ration cards for the purpose of identification.

FCI base depots in Chhattisgarh and M.P.

*4412. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depots of the Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for supplying foodgrains under the Public Distribution System;

(b) the capacity of these depots and the quantity of available stock of wheat and rice in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh as on 31st December, 2000;

(c) whether there is any proposal for opening up of more base depots in these States in public interest; and

(d) the price on which wheat and rice is being provided under the Public Distribution System with details thereof?

[†]Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The number of base depots of Food Corporation of India for supply of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System is 39 in Madhya Pradesh and 22 in Chhattisgarh.

(b) The total capacity of these depots and the quantity of stock available is as given below:—

Figures in tonnes

| State | Capacity | Stock Position | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Wheat | Rice |
| Madhya Pradesh | 907970 | 610255 | 178438 |
| Chhattisgarh | 806047 | 246371 | 430050 |
| TOTAL | 1714017 | 856626 | 608488 |

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal for opening of more base depots in these States.

(d) Wheat and Rice are being issued to the agencies under the Public Distribution System at the Central Issue Price declared by the Government of India at the following rates:

Rate: Rupees/per Qtl.

| Commodity | Issue Price | |
|-----------|-------------|-----|
| | APL | BPL |
| Wheat | 830 | 415 |
| Rice | 1130 | 565 |